

February 11, 2022

The following documents were identified as public comment and filed in Docket No. 2019-0333.

Attachments: Wakai Support of PGV - February 2022.pdf

From: Sen. Glenn Wakai <senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 5:07 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Senator Wakai PGV Support Letter

Dear Jay,

I am a firm believer in firm renewable power. Geothermal is an important contributor to the state's energy goals and provides a potential export opportunity.

Attached is a letter supporting the approval of PGV's amended PPA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,
Glenn





SENATOR GLENN WAKAI
HAWAII STATE SENATE

February 10, 2022

Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street, #103
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
puc@hawaii.gov

RE: Docket No. 2019-0333

Dear Chair Griffin, Commissioner Potter and Commissioner Asuncion,

I submit this letter in support for Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.'s (HELCO) Application for Approval of the Amended and Restated Power Purchase Agreement (ARPPA) between HELCO and Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV). In my letter to this Commission, dated July 18, 2021, I urged this Commission to lift the suspension of the docket and approve the ARPPA as requested by HELCO, and to allow any environmental review requirements for PGV's facility to proceed separately. On November 4, 2021, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development designated Hawaii County to be the accepting authority for PGV to perform an environmental review. On November 5, 2021, you issued Decision and Order 38063, lifting the suspension on docket 2019-0333 and declaring that the Commission was preparing for decision making.

It is my understanding that PGV is in the process of performing their environmental review for the proposed repowering project and working with Hawaii County. If the ARPPA is approved, the new contract will blend the two outdated existing PPA's into a comprehensive model geothermal PPA. The term of the ARPPA will be extended for 30 years, assuring that Hawaii Island will have a firm, dispatchable renewable energy resource for years to come. Additionally, the ARPPA pricing will be de-linked from oil pricing with energy charge rates between 4 and 7 cents per kilowatt hour. This pricing will not have any escalation throughout the term of the contract. The new facility will use an equivalent amount of geothermal resource that the existing 38 MW facility utilizes, but will deliver an additional 8 MW due to more modern, efficient equipment. However, until the ARPPA is finally approved, its benefits, including lower rates and greater contribution to the State's RPS goals, will not be realized by HELCO's customers.

For these reasons, I enthusiastically urge the Commission's approval of the ARPPA while PGV performs its environmental review concurrently with the Commission's decision making. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Aloha,

Glenn Wakai
Chairman Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism